

REMARKS

Claims 14-113 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 14-65 and 78-113 are rejected. Claims 14-26, 40-52 and 90-101 are canceled. Claims 27-39, 53-89 and 102-113 are amended. Claims 27-39, 53-89 and 102-113 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 27-39, 53-65, 78-89 and 102-113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections for claims 27-39, 53-65, 78-89 and 102-113 are respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 14-26, 40-52 and 90-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,440,638 issued to Golz et al. Applicant has canceled claims 14-26, 40-52 and 90-101. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejections are moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 27-39, 53-65, 78-89 and 102-113 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph set. Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 66-77 would be allowable if the objections were overcome. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections and informal objections.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 27-39, 53-89 and 102-113, as it now stands, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 27-39, 53-89 and 102-113 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 15, 2004.


Jean Svoboda